

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Between work, children and commuting, that great book you've been dying to read may simply be collecting dust on your bedside table. Instead of trying to carve out time in your busy schedule to catch up on a classic, the Duxbury Free Library is making it easier for patrons to fit reading into their routine.

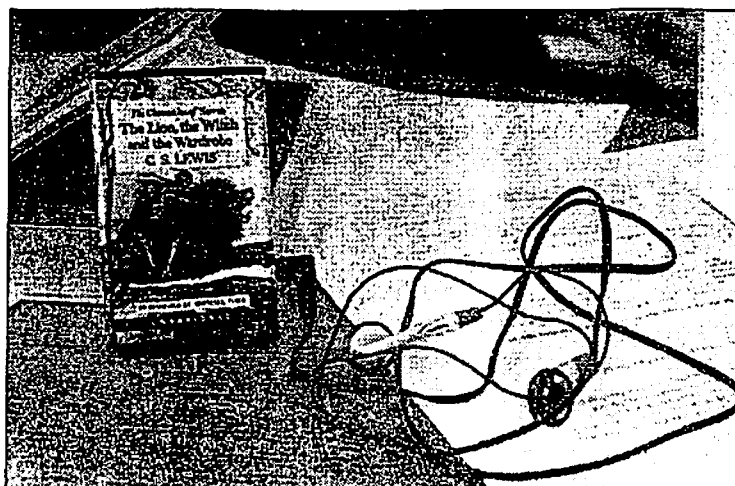
Pre-recorded MP3 players featuring adult and children's titles, are now available at the library, according to Library Director Elaine Winqvist. Winqvist said the library felt it was important to offer this latest piece of mobile literary technology because Duxbury is home to a large commuter community.

"They are very popular," Winqvist said. "We started with six to eight titles and they were never here."

The company that offers this form of books on the go is called Playaway and was actually founded by a librarian in Ohio, Winqvist said. There are now 27 titles ranging from children's books like *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis to adult material like *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. Each MP3 player comes in a protective case, which includes headphones and batteries.

The portable audio books are perfect for anyone who wants to multitask. Winqvist said the MP3 players work well for gardeners, for people working out and for commuters. Since driving and listening to headphones is not encouraged, Winqvist said the MP3 player can be used safely in the car by using an FM transmitter.

In the past, books on tape and books on CDs were offered at the library. The library also began offering downloadable books through OverDrive Inc., which allowed patrons to download books to



The Duxbury Free Library began offering titles on pre-recorded MP3 players in September. Currently, 27 books can be checked out in this format.

TITLES AVAILABLE

The 5th Horseman by James Patterson
Blessed are the Cheesemakers by Sarah-Kate Lynch
Cross by James Patterson
Wild Fire by Nelson DeMille
Fall on Your Knees by Ann-Marie MacDonald
The Hoax by Clifford Irving
The Collectors by David Baldacci
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Hundred-Dollar Baby by Robert Parker
Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
The Horse and His Boy by C.S. Lewis
Dead Famous by Carol O'Connell
A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean
Digging to America by Anne Tyler
Beach Road by James Patterson
The Broker by John Grisham
The Purpose Driven Life by Richard Warren
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris
The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown
The Greatest Stories of All Time: Old and New Testaments by George Vafiadis
The Mysterious Affair at Styles by Agatha Christie
Collected Stories and Poems by Edgar Allen Poe

their PC and then burn it to a CD or transfer a book to their own MP3 player. Playaway takes all of the work out of the downloading process. The library began offering Playaway's products in September and Winqvist said this technology is much cheaper and more user friendly.

"An unabridged book would sometimes require eight, 10 or even 12 CDs," Winqvist said. "It was really expensive and the CDs were easily damaged. The MP3 players are two-thirds the price of a book on CD and they are pretty indestructible."